

THE CONCORD SAUNTERER



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I have met with but one or two persons in the course of my life who understood the art of taking walks daily - not to exercise the legs or body merely, nor barely to recruit the spirits, but positively to exercise both body and spirit, and to succeed to the highest and worthiest ends by the abandonment of all specific ends - who had a genius, so to speak, for sauntering.

JOURNAL, January 10, 1851.

REFORMERS AND ULTRA-REFORMERS

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Henry Thoreau, do not wish to be regarded as a member of any incorporated society which I have not joined."

So it was that Thoreau, who may have felt that he was being spoken for on many issues by the Reverend Ezra Ripley, refused to pay a church assessment which was handled by the town treasurer at that date. By this disclaimer and further argument, he successfully rejected the levy against him - a sort of occurrence which was not unprecedented, however.

There is an underlying paradox, or ambiguity if you will, never wholly resolved by Thoreau. Incorporated societies which usurped their purposes were distasteful. Yet how were reforms to be made? Conversely, should one not join anything? Thoreau did join the Concord Lyceum, but that was noncommittal. He participated to the extent that Concord's geography permitted in the Underground Railroad. His address to his Concord neighbors, "A Plea for Captain John Brown" was as close to the politicking and the committee work of this most-necessary reform that he was to come. It was immediately reprinted to a wider audience.

Unlike his classmate Higginson, his Lexington neighbor Theodore Parker, or fellow-Concordian Frank Sanborn, this was not his arena. In his plea, Thoreau did see that, in spite of the newspapers' intent ignorings, "that at least a million of the free inhabitants of the United States would have rejoiced if it (i. e. John Brown's Raid) had succeeded."

Before considering some of the reforms of Thoreau's contemporaries, his memorable encounter with "ultra-reformers" should be mentioned.

"June 17, 1853... Here have been three ultra-reformers, lecturers on Slavery, Temperance, the Church, etc... They addressed each other constantly by their Christian names, and rubbed you continually with the greasy cheeks of their kindness. They would not keep their distance, but cuddle up and lie spoon-fashion with you, no matter how hot the weather nor how narrow the bed..."

The whole journal passage, quoted extensively in Men of Concord with an N. C. Wyeth illustration, suggests the thought that all those who cried "Lord, Lord" were not worthy in Thoreau's estimation. Yet it would be worthwhile to mention some of Thoreau's friends and contemporaries whose social reforms were significant.

In the matter of schools, Bronson Alcott held several teaching positions, lastly that of Concord's Superintendent of Schools. He, too, believed in avoiding the hickory stick, and spoke out against favoritism in the school system and a closer relationship between what was taught and what one could reasonably have use for. Horace Mann, whose son shared

Thoreau's final excursion and did not long outlive this trip either, worked hard for educational reform.

Among the Lowell mill workers, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Thoreau's college classmate, encouraged self-expression. His Abolitionist stand was followed by leadership of a black regiment in the Civil War, and he was later a champion of the rights of women.

In the care of the insane, one of William Ellery Channing's disciples, Dorothea Lynde Dix, was instrumental in instituting reforms. Badly needed was the introduction of enlightened methods for dealing with the insane, such as those of the Frenchman Pinel, but her work resumed after the Civil War, in which she, like Louisa May Alcott served as nurses to the end that changes and legislation were effected. Here and in the world of prisons and almshouses, Franklin Sanborn, who first introduced John Brown to Thoreau, served on the Massachusetts Board of State Charities, as inspector of "some thirty prisons". He participated in an international conference on prison reforms. In perspective, Miss Dix's reforms are more substantial than Sanborn's but the reality of prisons in which men and women are faced with the ambiguous goals of being isolated so as not to harm their fellow men, of being "cured", and of being "punished" makes a bitter puzzle which of course still demands resolution.

Against the problems of sensory deprivation - the deaf, the mute, the blind, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe in 1832 started what was to become the Perkins Institution. (Thoreau applied to teach there, but nothing came of it, Walter Harding notes.) Dr. Howe, who had fought in the Greek war of independence, also established an institution for the feeble-minded.

Richard Henry Dana, Jr. protested the brutal treatment of sailors and codified their treatment and redress in a book The Seaman's Friend. Horace Mann felt that Dana should have toned down Two Years Before the Mast for school use, but he would no more think of it than Thoreau would have.

Another Abolitionist on the edge of this group, Elizur Wright wrote and saw into practice New York State's insurance laws to protect beneficiaries, including widows and orphans from usury or from the inadequate reserves previously producing frequent bankruptcy defaulting. Wright was also instrumental in establishing the Middlesex Fells, an early suburban green belt.

I have underlined some of these causes to suggest their diversity. To an extent the earnestness of some reformers and some causes put Thoreau off. There were frequent disagreements among many advocates. And again, some of these battles had been fought on other fields. William Blake had expressed most ably the lot of the urban poor. Down in New York City, the ghetto area centered around a factory building turned into a vast tenement building. The Brewery at Five

Points, was the battle-site for two generations of church relief, at first ineptly, but finally more realistically.

There were and are many such causes that must be dealt with with the care and single-minded attention that one uses to pick apart a pile of jackstraws. Again, as Thoreau wrote to his friend Ricketson:

"New ideas come into this world somewhat like falling meteors, with a flash and an explosion, and perhaps somebody's castle-roof perforated."

- MMF

ANNUAL THOREAU SOCIETY MEETING

Reform will be the theme of the annual Thoreau Society Meeting in Concord on July 10. Coffee hour will be in the parlor of the First Parish Meetinghouse at 9:00 A.M. The business meeting will be called to order by President Albert Bussewitz at 10:15. Professor Wendell Glick of the University of Minnesota-Duluth will read a newly discovered essay by Thoreau entitled "Reform and Reformers" which he has edited for the new Princeton University Press edition of The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau. Thoreau wrote the reform essay, which is now in the Thoreau manuscript collection at Harvard, after "Civil Disobedience" and before "Slavery in Massachusetts" and the John Brown speeches, so it comes during an important period in the development of Thoreau's political and social philosophy. Parts of the essay were later used in the "Economy" and "Conclusion" chapters of Walden (1854). Albert Bussewitz will deliver the presidential address on "Thoreau and the Conservation Ethic." A luncheon will be served at 12:30 P.M. in the vestry of the church.

In addition to the annual excursions to Thoreau's woods and ponds, to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and the jail site, the afternoon program will include an open forum on the relevance of Thoreau's ideas today. Several speakers will present brief (5 minute) papers on the validity of Thoreau's ideas on such topics as civil disobedience, war, pollution, and desegregation, after each of which the meeting will be thrown open to general discussion. Moderator: Walter Harding.

As is our custom, we have arranged for a box supper to be served on the Lyceum lawn around the Walden house replica at 6:00 P.M., 156 Belknap Street. Reservations must be accompanied by a check for \$1.75 made out to the Thoreau Foundation, and mailed to the curator, Mrs. Thomas W. McGrath, 156 Belknap Street, Concord, Mass. 01742. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, July 6. There will be special exhibits at the Lyceum, including an exhibit about the new Princeton edition of The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau.

A NEW THOREAU LETTER

by Thomas Blanding

In The Emerson Society Quarterly for 1967 (No. 48, pp. 73-81), Kenneth Cameron edited four previously unpublished letters from Thoreau to Charles Stearns Wheeler. Unfortunately, because Professor Cameron did not have access to the manuscripts but had to rely on Sale Catalogue descriptions of the texts, at least one letter was inaccurately transcribed. That letter, however, has recently surfaced at the Thoreau Lyceum. It is dated June 15, 1842, one octavo page, with integral leaf addressed to C. S. Wheeler, in fine condition. The Thoreau Lyceum is selling this letter for a private collector who wishes to realize his original investment and to donate any additional balance to the Lyceum. The asking price for the letter, mounted and framed, is \$650.

A transcription of the manuscript letter follows:

Concord June 15th 1842

Dear Sir,

Shall I trouble
you to return these books
to the Library viz. The
Bruce--Lodge & Chalk-
hill--and Raleigh--five
vols. They are all I
have.

Yrs. &c
Henry D. Thoreau

I hope you will smuggle
some poetical treasures into
the country on your return.

Stearns Wheeler, one of the most promising young Transcendentalists, hailed from Lincoln, Massachusetts, and was Thoreau's roommate at Harvard College. Thoreau and Wheeler first met when they were both students at the Concord Academy. During their summer vacation from Harvard in 1837, the two friends spent six weeks living in a hut that Wheeler had built near Flint's Pond in Lincoln, an experience which anticipated Thoreau's later experiment at Walden Pond. After his graduation with Thoreau in the class of '37, Wheeler replaced Jones Very as tutor of Greek at Harvard. He also edited the first American editions of the writings of Carlyle and Tennyson.

Professor Cameron points out (1. 73) that Thoreau visited Wheeler and roomed with him at Harvard from November 29 to December 10, 1841, thus briefly qualifying as a "Resident

Oxford June 15th 1842

Dear Sir,

Shall I trouble
you to return these books
of the Librarian viz. The
Bones - Bodys & Chalk-
hill - and Raleigh - five
vols. They are all I
have.

Yrs. to

Henry D. Thoreau.

I hope you will smuggle
some practical treasures into
the county on your return.

Graduate" who could withdraw books from the College Library for use in Cambridge. It is known that Thoreau carried at least one volume back to Concord in violation of the Library rules. Thoreau's letter of June 15, 1842 implies that he continued to use Wheeler's library privilege after he returned home. Professor Cameron identifies the volumes mentioned in the letter as:

- 1) The Works of Sir Walter Raleigh Kt., Now First Collected, eight vols. (Oxford, 1829), vol. 8.
- 2) John Chalkhill, Thealma and Clearchus: A Pastoral Romance (Chiswick, 1820).
- 3) Thomas Lodge, Glaucus and Silla, with Other Lyrical and Pastoral Poems (Chiswick, 1819).
- 4) John Barbour, The Bruce; or, the History of Robert I. King of Scotland (London, 1790).

Thoreau withdrew volume eight of the Raleigh Edition on December 10, 1841. The other volumes were withdrawn from the library by Wheeler on January 5, 1842, after Thoreau's own library privilege had expired. Professor Cameron suggests that "smuggle" in the postscript may be a double entendre referring to Thoreau's and Wheeler's deception as well as to Wheeler's passage through U. S. Customs when he returned from Europe, where he was going for Graduate Study. In June, 1842, Thoreau returned these books to Wheeler, who had received a notice instructing that all outstanding books be returned to the library for the annual inventory. That Thoreau returned other borrowed books to Wheeler before this is suggested by his underlining of "these" in the June 15 letter.

In 1842, Stearns Wheeler went abroad to study in Germany. He died of gastric fever in Leipzig in June, 1843 at the age of twenty-six. Thus ended one of Thoreau's closest friendships. Thoreau did not withdraw any more books from the Harvard College Library until he received special permission to do so in 1849.

Anyone interested in purchasing this manuscript letter should contact our curator, Mrs. Thomas McGrath, at the Thoreau Lyceum.

A TRANSCENDENTAL MYSTERY

Chapter I

There arrived at the Lyceum the June 7th copy of Time Magazine with this label:

DE 71 TOR 00000H97TS0 17 01
Mr. H. D. Thoreau
Walden Pond
Concord Ma 01742

Shortly after this came a bill for 4.93 on the bottom half of

which was a questionnaire wanting to know what business the head of Henry's family was engaged in and with what title he should be addressed. This reminded us of the Journal entry for March 5, 1853 in which Thoreau reported receiving a printed circular letter from the secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Science who requested the recipient to "fill the blank against certain questions, among which the most important one was what branch of science I was specially interested in," He goes on to say that he should have told them at once that he was a transcendentalist; - "That would have been the shortest way of telling them that they would not understand my explanations." Should we try this with Time?

Chapter II

There next arrived an official envelope from the Forest Service of the White Mountain National Forest bearing a bill to Henry Thoreau at the above address for spending the night at Sugarloaf I on the night of June 5, 1971. It says that the fee is 2.00 per night UNLESS he has purchased a 10.00 Golden Eagle. If so, he should send the serial number of his permit to the Federal Building in Littleton, N.H.

Watch for the next installment; it may be another night in jail!

THE THOREAU EDITION BEGINS TO APPEAR

Henry Thoreau's first book, A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, made an inconspicuous splash when Thoreau dropped it into the American literary puddle in 1849. Reviews were poor and sales poorer. When his publisher returned the bulk of the first edition of 1,000 copies to him in 1853, Thoreau remarked in his Journal, "I have now a library of nearly nine hundred volumes, over seven hundred of which I wrote myself." While few of us are inspired enough (or wealthy enough at today's rare book prices) to line our walls with seven hundred first editions of A Week, we do welcome the opportunity to add an ample shelf of Thoreau to our libraries.

Such an opportunity is now at hand with Princeton University Press's publication of The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau, the first collected Thoreau Edition in sixty-five years and the first truly complete and authoritative edition of his writings. The Thoreau Edition, under the general editorship of Walter Harding, is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Center for Editions of American Authors of the Modern Language Association, which also sponsor new editions of Hawthorne, Emerson, Melville, Irving, Twain, Whitman, Howells and Crane. Appropriately, the first

volume of the Thoreau Edition, Walden edited by J. Lyndon Shanley, is slated for publication on July 4, 1971, the 126th anniversary of Thoreau's move to Walden Pond.

A publisher's note indicates that The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau "provides for the scholar and the general reader authoritative texts, edited according to the most advanced bibliographical principles, and presented with textual notes." Walden provides the general reader with an accurate clear-text in a handsomely bound volume. Textual Notes and Introductions, so important to the scholar but so much Greek to the general reader, are included in an appendix at the end of the book, following a full and useful index compiled by Paul O. Williams. Each volume of the Edition, as it appears during the next several years, will be edited in the same scrupulous manner. For the first time, we can read exactly what Thoreau wrote, and we can read it in eleven volumes of Works and perhaps as many as twenty volumes of Journal!

In 1906 Houghton Mifflin Company published in twenty volumes the "Walden Edition" of Thoreau's writings. The scope of the new Edition is suggested by its expanded size to about thirty volumes. The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau, in addition to the standard works like Walden, A Week, Cape Cod, and The Maine Woods, will collect many of the more neglected works that have appeared in obscure or limited editions over the years, including "The Service," "Sir Walter Raleigh," and Translations. More significantly, the Princeton Edition will collect many hitherto unpublished essays, poems and letters. The College Essays and Reviews will appear in Miscellanies, a recently discovered essay on "Reform and Reformers" will take its place beside "Civil Disobedience," and Notes on Fruits and Seeds will fill an entire volume itself. The Journal will include a complete and accurate transcription of Thoreau's thirty-nine manuscript journals in the Morgan Library, an unpublished journal of the Walden period now in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library, and a substantial collection of scattered fragments from Thoreau's destroyed journals of the 1840's.

During the summer months, the Thoreau Lyceum at 156 Belknap Street in Concord will sponsor a special exhibit by Princeton University Press. On the second floor of the Lyceum will be found exhibits tracing the production of the new Walden from beginning to end with facsimiles of typical manuscript pages of Walden, of pages from the first edition, the copy of the new edition as it went to the printer, page proofs, galley proofs and much more to introduce the public to The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau. Copies of the new Walden are available in the Lyceum Bookshop for ten dollars.

-- Thomas Blanding

NOTE: The trustees of the Thoreau Foundation are pleased to announce that Thomas Blanding, first Thoreau Lyceum Scholar, has been appointed to the editorial staff of the new Thoreau edition. His work in reconstructing some of the early Journal material will be put to good use in his new post. Meanwhile, for the next three months he will once again be acting as assistant curator at the Lyceum where his association with the Princeton edition will more than qualify him as a knowledgeable interpreter of the forthcoming exhibit.

THOREAU RESPONDS TO A GIFT FROM EMERSON

by Thomas Blanding

Ralph Waldo Emerson's many kindnesses to young Henry Thoreau are a matter of record. Fourteen years Thoreau's senior, Emerson encouraged the young Harvard graduate to pursue a writing vocation and to cultivate his talent by keeping a daily journal. Emerson helped Thoreau publish his essays and poems in The Dial, the Transcendental organ, and provided him with both a roof over his head in the Emerson house and some ground under his feet at Walden Pond.

Thoreau's gratitude to his neighbor should be a matter of record too, but this is not the case. Except for a few early letters, Thoreau left no direct, personal testimony of thanks to Emerson. However, this should not be mistaken for ingratitude on Thoreau's part, for his philosophy of friendship permitted no calculated expression of love. He believed that a friend's affinity should be manifest in his character and actions and that to break silence on the subject of friendship would be to reduce love to a lower level of sympathy and understanding--to a misunderstanding.

Even Thoreau's journal contains few easily identifiable references to Emerson. His journal entries on friendship almost always refer to "my friend," rarely to "Emerson" or even "R. W. E.," and when Thoreau refers to a fact in their friendship he couches it in a context so obscure and in language so impersonal that the words might have been uttered by the Oversoul itself. That most of Thoreau's journal passages about his "friend" refer to Emerson (and several to Emerson's wife Lidian) will be demonstrated in my forthcoming study of the Emerson-Thoreau friendship, but, in the meantime, one such entry might be of interest to Saunterer readers.

The day before its official publication on March 20, 1841, Emerson sent forty-eight copies of his book, Essays, First Series, to friends and relatives. One of these went to "D. H. Thoreau," who five weeks later was to move into the Emerson house as handyman, gardener and literary associate. Although Emerson noted in his journal that he "sent" copies

of Essays to his friends on March 19, including one to Thoreau inscribed "Henry D. Thoreau from his friend, R. W. E. 19 March 1841," he probably kept Thoreau's copy by him until he next encountered his fellow townsman. Such a meeting almost certainly took place two days later on Sunday, March 21, for it was Thoreau's practice to take Sunday Dinner at the Emerson's. At that time, Emerson must have given Thoreau his copy of Essays, an appropriate gift from one who had written that "the only gift is a portion of thyself." The origin and meaning of Thoreau's single journal entry for that day, March 21, 1841, is now clear in this context: "To be associated with others by my friend's generosity when he bestows a gift is an additional favor to be grateful for." (Journal I, 241).

THOMAS REED DELIVERS SPEECH

At a recent muster of the Concord Minute Men, Thomas B. Reed, historian of the Minute Men, delivered the following speech on Thoreau.

HENRY THOREAU - MEET THE BOW

In July, 1853, Henry Thoreau records in his journal that all his life he has had trouble keeping his shoe laces tied. He used heavy leather laces and tied them in a "simple hard knot, right over left, then right over left again," and he says he could hardly walk twenty paces before they came untied. He even considered using the distance he could walk before his laces loosened as a unit of measure.

He tried many solutions - he bought from a peddler shoe laces made from the hide of the South American Jackass, guaranteed to keep tied - he tried laces with recurved prickles, he tried going without laces which gave him rather a loose walk. On this July day however, Henry, aged 36 and a graduate of Harvard College, tried tying the laces first right over left and then LEFT OVER RIGHT. He was marvelously satisfied to find his shoestrings gave him no more trouble by loosening, although he did have trouble getting them off at night. One assumes from this journal entry that in 1853 no one in the civilized world knew how to tie a bow knot, for if they had, the secret would have spread to even such remote towns as Concord and no one would have been bothered by either loose shoes or shoes that wouldn't come off at night. All of you ex-Scouts recognize that what Henry had been doing was tying a Granny knot and that he stumbled on the square knot by accident.

I would mortgage my soul for the chance of talking to Henry Thoreau for five minutes on this subject. I would tell

him that since his death our machines have become much cleverer and stronger than the machines he knew, but that the average man of the twentieth century cannot do with his head and hands and the available natural materials a tenth of what was expected of his ancestor a hundred years ago, such as making a cabin in the woods for 27 dollars. But we have learned one thing since then. I would show him how we tie our shoes so they stay tied, yet can be untied, and with a knot of rather elegant symmetry and beauty. And I would get more satisfaction in our having taught Henry how to tie a bow-knot than I do from the invention of the automobile or radio, because we have bested him on his own ground with his own materials.

However I would also acknowledge a debt to him in knot tying. I would explain to him that a bow knot is simply his square knot with the ends tucked back through the second over-hand knot. And thinking about this I decided that there must be, by analogy, a granny-bow knot, that is a granny knot with the ends tucked in. I have in the dresser drawer an arsenal of elegant bow ties, accumulated over many Christmases and I seldom wear them because they are the deuce to tie. Some mornings I will casually sit at breakfast and without thinking, make a pretty good bow. Other mornings, however, I can't tie a bow knot to save my mortgaged soul and I give it up and wear a four in hand instead. I now realize that half the time I have been tying a granny-bow in the bow ties. Try a granny-bow on your shoe laces. You will discover that the ends lie along the foot rather than across the foot as a square-bow does. I have since learned from a neighbor that little girls sometimes tie granny-bows in their pigtails on purpose so the ends won't stick out and tempt little boys to pull them. Anyhow a granny-bow won't work at all for a necktie because it tries to lie vertically, interfering with the chin. Now my bow ties look almost too neat, like the clip on cheaters used by those who don't understand bow-tie tying.

And so I feel that Henry and I are even in the field of shoes and bows and that though I can teach him and his generation a most marvelous solution for their loose laces, that I have learned to tie bow ties from reading his journal.

NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

The Lyceum has a good working collection of material housed in suitable surroundings. Through gifts and purchases it seeks not to rival the Concord Public Library's unique collection, but to make accessible the best scholarly and popular material for our range of interests. Some recent additions:

The Dial, three issues of the original edition, and six other issues of the limited Rowfant Club edition.

Walden, first edition, rebound, but with original cover bound in. (Gift of M. Ferguson)

Transmigration of the Seven Brahmans, another limited edition of a Hindu work translated from the French by Thoreau.

Huckleberries, a recently published essay by Thoreau in a limited edition.

In Touch With Thoreau, a quaint 1907 paperback, quotations from Thoreau compiled by Harriet A. Townsend.

Thoreau: The Poet-Naturalist, the 1873 edition of this first Thoreau biography by his friend Channing.

Poems of Sixty-Five Years, by William Ellery Channing, edited by F. B. Sanborn, 1902.

Little-Known Sisters of Well-Known Men, by Sarah G. Pomeroy, includes a sketch of Henry's sister Sophia.

Margaret Fuller Ossoli, a biography by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1884.

Part of a Man's Life, autobiography of Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1905.

Wild Flowers of the United States, vol. one, the northeastern states, by Harold W. Rickett. A beautiful, two-volume, boxed edition with color photographs.

Birds of the Northern Forest, paintings by J. F. Lansdowne, text by John A. Livingston.

TURNING OVER A NEW THOREAU LEAF

by Thomas Blanding

Since his death more than one hundred and nine years ago in 1862, Thoreau's manuscripts have been scattered to the four winds until, today, they turn up in the most unlikely places. Now, a good wind has carried a manuscript leaf from the Concord Antiquarian Museum to the Thoreau Lyceum, where it is on exhibit to the public. It is a cluster of five hickory leaves on a stem, picked by Henry's sister Sophia on Fair Haven Hill, October 13, 1868. This item would be of interest to only the most avid Thoreauvian but for one fact -- on the five leaves Sophia has copied a poem by Henry Thoreau!

The poem, entitled "Fair Haven," is transcribed below. On each leaf is written one stanza in black ink:

S. E. Thoreau

1868.

Fair Haven.

Oct. 13th

When little hills like lambs did skip,
And Joshua ruled in heaven,†

Unmindful rolled Musketaquid,
Nor budged an inch Fair Haven.

If there's a cliff in this wide world
A' stepping stone to heaven,
A pleasant, craggy, short hand cut,
It sure must be Fair Haven.

If 'eer my bark be tempest tossed,
And every hope be wave in,
And this frail hulk shall spring a leak,
I'll steer for thee, Fair Haven.

And when I take my last long rest
And quiet sleep my grave in
What kindlier covering for my breast
Than thy warm turf Fair Haven.

A variant version of this poem, with three additional stanzas, is in Collected Poems (Baltimore, 1964, p. 381), edited by Carl Bode. Sophia copied only four stanzas of "Fair Haven" before she ran out of leaves. Thoreau has suffered at the hands of even the most devoted editors.

Bode adds the following note to the poem (p. 400):

"Fair Haven" was one of several poems received by Ellen Sewall from the Thoreau brothers. The Davenport copy of it (ms. owned by George Davenport, Jr., dated at end "May 27, 1837.") is in John Thoreau's hand but the author is surely Henry . . . The note of youthful ebullience this poem strikes is rare in Thoreau's verse; there is almost a sense of frolic here, perhaps because he was shortly to leave Harvard as a college graduate.

A copy of the poem in Henry's handwriting is listed in the Wakeman catalogue, number 973, but it seems to have disappeared. It is interesting that three of the four Thoreau children, John, Henry and Sophia, made copies of this poem. It was probably a favorite with them.

Thoreau wrote "Fair Haven" in May, 1837, the same month that he wrote the more famous "Sic Vita," beginning "I am a parcel of vain striving tied / By a chance bond together." Thoreau tossed a copy of "Sic Vita," wrapped round a bunch of violets tied loosely with a straw, through Mrs. Lucy Jackson Brown's window at the Thoreaus' Parkman House on Main Street where the public library now stands. Mrs. Brown, Emerson's sister-in-law, boarded with the Thoreaus in the spring of 1837 and at that time Thoreau de-

veloped a deep affection for her, though apparently not so deep as his love for Fair Haven. Thoreau remained a bachelor of nature - and by nature.

FLIPPER HAT OR BOTANY BOX?

From the Journals, June 23, 1852 . . . "I am inclined to think that my hat, whose lining is gathered in midway so as to make a shelf, is about as good a botany box as I could have and far more convenient, and there is something in the darkness and the vapors that arise from the head - at least if you take a bath - which preserves flowers through a long walk."

When a patent is issued, a study of the prior art is made following the disclosure. Whether the patentee or the examiners tipped their hats to Thoreau is not known.

3,505,682

FLIPPER HAT

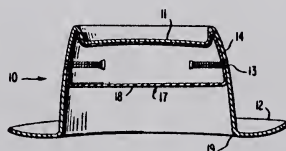
**Edward C. Mims, 254 Church St.,
Elberton, Ga. 30635**

Filed Sept. 5, 1968, Ser. No. 757,711

Int. Cl. A42c 5/00

U.S. Cl. 2—185

2 Claims



A hat for sportsmen or the like having a waterproof compartment integrally formed therewithin capable of opening and closing along the crown portion for carrying any number of small paraphernalia intended to be insulated from the various weather elements.

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